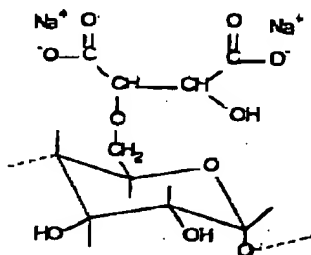


CLAIMS

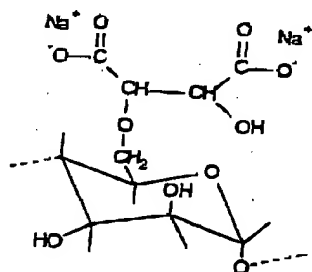
1.-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A malatyl polysaccharide ~~Malatyl polysaccharides~~ prepared by reacting at a pH of 9-13 polysaccharides and an epoxy compound selected from the group consisting of cis-epoxy succinate or and epoxy carboxylic acids, wherein carboxyl groups of the epoxy compound are preserved in the malatyl polysaccharide.

9. (currently amended) [A] The malatyl polysaccharide according to claim 8 in the form of malatyl starch of the general formula (I)[:].

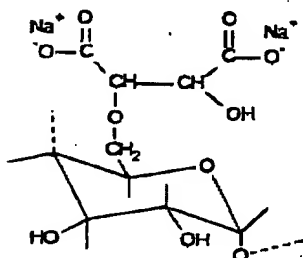


10. (currently amended) [A] The malatyl polysaccharide according to claim 8 in the form of malatyl galactomannan of the general formula (IIa).



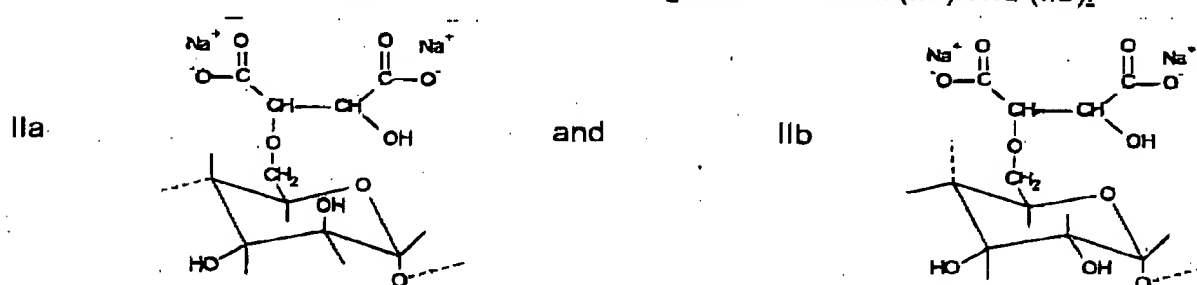
IIa

11. (currently amended) [A] The malatyl polysaccharide according to claim 8 in the form of malatyl galactomannan of the general formula (IIb).

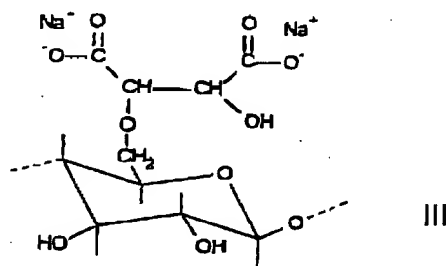


IIb

12. (currently amended) [A] The malatyl polysaccharide according to claim 8 in the form of malatyl galactomannan of the general formula (IIa) and (IIb).



13. (currently amended) [A] The malatyl polysaccharide according to claim 8 in the form of malatyl cellulose of the general formula (III).



14. (currently amended) A method of preparing malatyl polysaccharides according to claim 8 4, comprising the step of:

reacting polysaccharides at a pH of 9-13 with an epoxy compound selected from the group consisting of cis-epoxy succinate and or analog epoxy, carboxylic acids, wherein the carboxyl groups of the epoxy compound are preserved in the malatyl polysaccharide.

15. (currently amended) [A] The method according to claim 14, wherein the epoxy compound is epoxy succinate and the step of reacting is carried out in a suspension.

16. (currently amended) [A] The method according to claim 14, wherein the epoxy compound is epoxy succinate and the step of reacting is carried out in solid phase.

17. (canceled)